Shoreline
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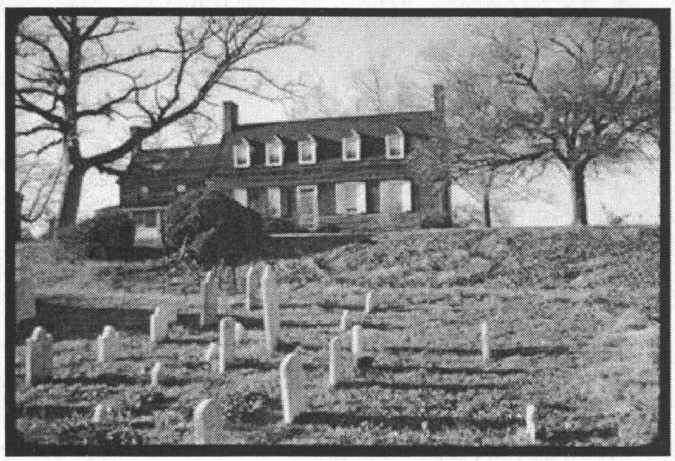
For the Members of the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University

Long Hill

By Denise Horner



Long Hill, a plantation house situated in the Wetipquin area of Nanticoke Hundred in Wicomico County, is located on the original 1668 land patent, also called Long Hill. It is a one-and-a-half story frame house fronting on Wetipquin Creek on the south. A mid-18th century Georgian house, Long Hill's additions over the past centuries have created a house with three distinct parts. With a larger main elevation, the house today also has a smaller hyphen, or center passage, and a medium-sized bay on the hyphen's other end. The current owners added both of the last two elevations in the 1990s.

At some time in the 19th century a wing was added to the main elevation. It included a porch and a third chimney on the outer wall, which had been battered, or built out, at the base. This wing was removed in the 1990s. On the main elevation, the ceiling joists project and create the impression of Greek or classical dentiling. Above the dentil work, the steeply pitched roof is pierced by five dormer windows, each with its own peaked roof. The gable ends of the main bay are of Flemish bond with glazed header bricks, a typical pattern for an 18th century Eastern Shore house. The Flemish bond pattern is of alternate stretchers, or long bricks, with their header, or the short end of the brick, centered both above and below the stretcher. Inside, raised wooden paneling containing a central panel depicting a beautiful ocean scene of a ship tossed about by waves decorates the sitting room.

An indirect route from Edinburgh, Scotland, to Northumberland, VA, and eventually to Somerset (now Wicomico) County, typifies the ownership of Long Hill, mainly by the Dashiell family. The original 300 acres, called Long Hill, was patented by Samuel Jackson on June 23, 1668. Less than a month later, he sold the property to James Dashiell Sr. In 1677, James Dashiell Sr. willed the land to his son Robert Dashiell Sr., whose trustee was Robert's brother Capt. James Dashiell Jr.

The elder James Dashiell, the son of James Dashiell and Margaret Inglis, was born in Scotland in 1634. Immigrating to Northumberland County, VA, in 1653, he became a surveyor and justice of the peace. He married Ann Cannon, who had been born in Yorkshire, England, in 1639 and arrived in Virginia in 1646 with her father Edward. In 1663, James Dashiell Sr. and his wife Ann moved to Old Somerset County, MD, with their son James Jr. and their niece Elizabeth. Their 1673 house was built by English carpenter William Davis.

James died in 1696 and Ann was given the right to live on the property of Long Hill until she died, at which time it went to their son Robert Dashiell Sr., who was born September 22, 1677, in Wetipquin, MD. James Sr. and Ann were also buried there. Robert Sr., a slave owner and 'gentleman,' received the whole 300 acres. When he died in 1718, he divided his property between two of his sons, William, who received the upper 150 acres, and James, who inherited the lower 150 acres. James presumably left his 150-acre portion to his unmarried brother Matthias, a shipwright, though there is no record of this. Brothers William and Matthias were listed as next of kin in James' inventory. In 1744, Matthias left the property to his nephew John Stewart, son of Matthias' sister Rebecca and Alexander Stewart. Rebecca was living at Long Hill then.

The Stewart descendants owned the property until Thomas Hambury bought it from Dr. Cadmus Dashiell in 1884. Born November 1, 1813, the son of Matthias and Rebecca Emmet Whitelock Dashiell, Cadmus was quite well-to-do and made numerous land purchases in both Wicomico and Somerset counties.

A graveyard near Wetipquin Creek contains over a dozen members of the Dashiell family, including four children of Cadmus Dashiell and his wife Harriet: Nathan, Ann, Martha and Mary. Of this list, Mary was the only Dashiell child to live for more than a few months, but she died at about the age of four. Several of the white markers have scrolled tops and are now well-set into the ground through accumulation of the soil around the stones. One round-topped marker, unidentified, has a carved lamb and the initials C.M.B. engraved on it. With the stones overlooking the trees and marshy creek, the view for the dead couldn't have been better.

Long Hill is in beautiful condition today, stately, elevated on its hill overlooking Wetipquin Creek. Divided into unequal thirds, the house has a restful long-standing appearance. With diligent upkeep, the home is ready for another three or four hundred years of occupancy.

The author, Denise Horner, is a receptionist at the Nabb Research Center and has a particular interest in local history.

Damika Baker Joins Nabb Staff

Damika Baker joined the Nabb Center staff in November 2010.

The Nabb Center welcomes Damika Baker as our new outreach coordinator. Baker is a 2004 graduate of University of Maryland, College Park with a degree in Afro-American studies and a concentration in cultural and social analysis. She comes to the Nabb Center with non-profit and archival experience after working at Adkins Arboretum in Ridgely, MD; Coastal Hospice in Salisbury; and interning at the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis, where she worked on the "Beneath the Underground: Flight to Freedom" project. Baker's research interests include African-American history, specifically the Civil Rights Movement and the Underground Railroad. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in non-profit and association management at UMUC.

As outreach coordinator, Baker's responsibilities include the *Shoreline* newsletter, public events, exhibits, working with the community volunteers, and other opportunities for working with the community and University.

Nabb Center Receives LESHC Heritage Interpretation Award

The Nabb Research Center accepted a prestigious award on January 21. At its annual meeting in Ocean City, the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council (LESHC) presented the Heritage Interpretation Award to the Nabb Center for the "Sources of Black Community: Family and Faith" exhibit. Board Member Kathy Washburn Niskanen stated, "I served on the LESHC award committee, and the competition was fierce, but Nabb's exhibit was clearly the best. Congratulations to all the staff and volunteers who worked so hard on this successful exhibit, which over 1,000 people viewed." The "Sources of Black Community" exhibit ran from January 2010 to July 2010.

Families of Old Somerset- The Seaside Settlement

The Nabb Research Center sponsored the first in a series of roundtable events on Saturday, January 22, at the Nabb Center Galley. Organized by director Dr. G. Ray Thompson and research assistant T. Aaron Horner, the subject of this roundtable was "Families of Old Somerset – The Seaside Settlement." The focus was Bogerternorton Hundred and its families and settlement patterns over the years. Close to 40 people attended and participated in the event. Additionally, the Nabb Reading Room was opened for a follow-up discussion and to acquaint people new to the Nabb Center of its resources and membership opportunities.

Tidbits from a Vintage Eastern Shore Recipe Book

By Lindsay Maddux

Food and household care were essential to an Eastern Shore woman's life. Before modern technology, fancy cookware and brand-name cleaners, women had to fend for themselves with their daily duties of cleaning, cooking and caring for the family. Cakes were made from scratch and cookbooks were largely unpopular or even unavailable. If you want to know what things your grandmother or great-grandmother knew about making delicious comfort food and effectively caring for a house, take a few hints from below.

Old South Vinegar Chocolate Cake

Ingredients:
3 cups flour
2 cups sugar
2 tsp. soda (baking soda)
6 tbsp. cocoa
2 cups cold water
1 tsp. salt
½ cup oil
2 tsp. vanilla
2 tbsp. vinegar
Mix well. Bake at 350°, 35 to 40 minutes.

Home Remedy

Your grandmother was also inventive in the way she cared for her house:

"Spray plants or flowers with 1/2 ounce of liquid dish soap to 10 gallons of water; do this every 3 weeks. Bugs hate the taste of soap."

If you have any household tips or recipes that are native to life on the Eastern Shore, please share them with the Nabb Research Center.

This recipe and tip came from Pearl McNelia (1900-2005) of Salisbury and was hand-written for her granddaughter Melodye McNelia. Pearl worked in a local shirt factory and raised two sons. Melodye's daughter Lindsay Maddux, the author, is an English major who did an internship at the Nabb Center.

Early Medical Practices on the Eastern Shore

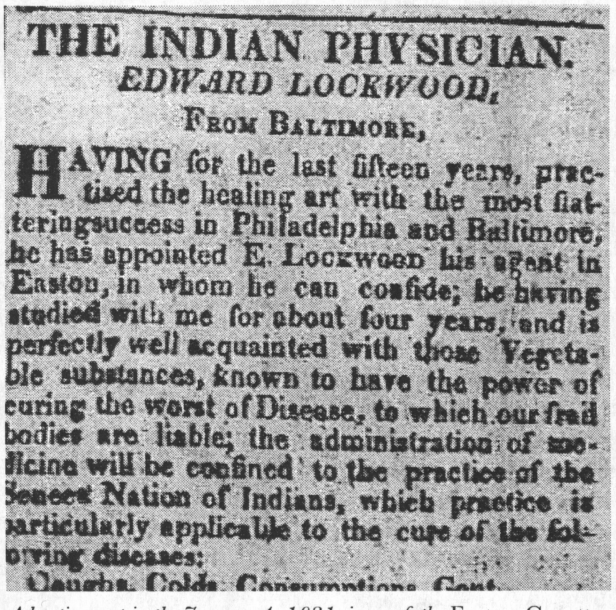
By Katie Nicholson

Imagine getting sick without antibiotics or without any of the medicines readily available today. During the mid-1800s, the Eastern Shore was an entirely different place and culture. Doctors experimented with mysterious medicine, mixing and selling "cure-all" serums. Newspapers in towns like Snow Hill and Easton shed light on this era and on early medicines used by physicians here on the shore. Old newspapers are great sources to find articles or advertisements relating to the medical field. In Snow Hill the *Worcester County Shield* and in Easton the *Easton Gazette*, *Eastern Shore Whig* and *People's Advocate* provide insights into facets of the daily life of 19th century Eastern Shore residents. Many doctors wrote to the newspaper, advertising their practice and their latest "all-curing" syrups. Although these doctors had a good understanding of common sicknesses such as consumption, colds, cough, diseases of the liver and diseases of the pulmonary organs, they generally did not know the precise causes of many illnesses or their effective treatments.

Doctors, such as a Dr. Wintar in Snow Hill, MD, started creating their own experimental drugs. At that time, there was no regulatory body like today's Food and Drug Administration to evaluate the safety of these newly created drugs; patients were often treated as "guinea pigs" for these cure-alls. It is difficult to know what exactly comprised these "restoratives." Doctors would take a new mixture and test it on a number of patients, hoping that it would heal the patients' illnesses. An article from an October 1846 issue of the *Worcester County Shield* described Dr. Wintar and his Balsam of Wild Cherry medicine, which he claimed cured common sicknesses. This balsam was made up of wild cherry bark, "combined with the extract of tar [and] prepared by a new chemical process." Once created, the elixir would be tested and then approved by the physicians at the time. This Balsam of Wild Cherry was sold at Townsend and Upshur Store in Snow Hill. The *Worcester County Shield* of October 6, 1846, had a testimony from a gentleman who had used Dr. Wintar's Balsam of Wild Cherry and had been cured of his ailments. Another patient, Mr. L.W Sibley, who was associated with the auction house of Sibley and Scranton in Rochester, NY, gave his personal account about successfully using the balsam. Sibley said he had used the Balsam of Wild Cherry for a few months and had great relief from bronchitis, which he had been battling for four years. He also believed that the balsam would be helpful in all cases of illnesses of the chest and liver. In some cases these drugs would work; although, many times it was uncertain whether the medicine actually cured the disease or merely provided temporary relief, masking the actual symptoms.

In Easton, a physician named Edward Lockwood created a different set of medicines. On January 4, 1831, Lockwood explained that he was knowledgeable about Indian medicines to the *Easton Gazette* and that he had used Indian remedies from the Seneca Nation. Lockwood had been studying Indian medicine for four years in Philadelphia and Baltimore with a fellow colleague who had been studying the subject for 15 years. Lockwood was bringing his new study of vegetable substances to the Eastern Shore. The medicines that he learned about from the Indians were known to cure the worst diseases. Some of the diseases his "concoction" was said to cure were cough, colds, consumption, gout, epilepsy, deafness, baldness, cancers, rheumatism and palsy. Lockwood was confident that he could restore the sick to a healthy state. He had his practice at Mr. Ridgeway's Union Tavern in Easton. Interestingly, during this time, townspeople and doctors were often open to natural medicines of the Indians.

Sometimes the purveyors of these newly created remedies were not even doctors; often salesmen, such as Seth Hance of Baltimore or Isaac P. Smith of Snow Hill, were merely trying to make money. Hance created a compound syrup for sickness, while Isaac P. Smith sold it in his Snow Hill store. In the Worcester County Shield of May 19, 1846, an advertisement boasted that Smith had a medicine that cured "cough, colds, asthma, consumption, and all disease of the breast and lungs." It is uncertain if Hance's compound syrup for sickness really did cure any illnesses. The compound syrup's main ingredient was more than likely alcohol; it would make the sick feel better, if only temporarily.



THE INDIAN PHYSICIAN.
EDWARD LOCKWOOD,
FROM BALTIMORE,

HAVING for the last fifteen years, practised the healing art with the most flattering success in Philadelphia and Baltimore, he has appointed E. Lockwood his agent in Easton, in whom he can confide; he having studied with me for about four years, and is perfectly well acquainted with those Vegetable substances, known to have the power of curing the worst of Disease, to which our frail bodies are liable; the administration of medicine will be confined to the practice of the Seneca Nation of Indians, which practice is particularly applicable to the cure of the following diseases:

Coughs, Colds, Consumptions, Gout,

Advertisement in the January 4, 1831, issue of the Easton Gazette.

Physicians during the mid-1800s constantly had to respond to a wide variety of illnesses. Eastern Shore doctors might have easily identified a patient's sickness, but found it difficult to treat them. Today's variety of medicines was unknown then. Experimentation with different mixtures or natural ingredients was an approved and accepted means of providing help for the sick. These medicines were merely one part of the medical practices frequently used in the 19th century. Here, on the Eastern Shore, most people tried to heal themselves at home, and only if they failed did they search out a doctor for balms and elixirs that he might prescribe. These inhabitants used whatever materials were at hand to relieve pain and illness and soothe the pain and discomforts that they faced and were unable to cure through their own resources. Examining newspapers from different time periods and various locations is a very effective way of learning about the customs of previous times. Without these resources it would be difficult to gain a true understanding of how times and people have progressed in their knowledge of medicine and cures.

Katie Nicholson, a history major and recent intern at the Nabb Research Center, graduated December 2010 from Salisbury University and has been employed as an administrative assistant at the Salisbury Wicomico Arts Council. We wish Katie the best of fortune in her new position, which was her "dream" job.

Salisbury
UNIVERSITY
Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture
1101 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, MD 21801-6861
410-543-6312
E-mail: rcdhac@salisbury.edu

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Exhibits and Events - Spring 2011

Native Americans: First Contact on Lower Delmarva; Exhibit, Nabb Center Gallery, East Campus
Through May 20

'Tis the Season: Vintage Postcards in American Memory; Online Exhibit*:
Through December 31

The Eastern Shore Through the Eye of the Photographer; Exhibit,
Nabb Center Gallery, East Campus - February 14-June 30
A reprisal of the national, award-winning exhibit of images of the Eastern Shore shot by its most famous photographer, Orlando Wootten, whose extensive collection is among the Nabb Center's holdings. Enhanced with images not previously shown.

Faces of the Eastern Shore; Online Exhibit*: Begins February 22

Portrait of an Eastern Shore Woman; Online Exhibit*: Begins March 1

African-American Family History Workshop, Nabb Center Gallery, East Campus
Saturday, April 2, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
A workshop on the basics of genealogy and the unique challenges of researching African-American family histories will be led by Kimberly Conway Dumpson, Esq., using examples of source materials from the Nabb Research Center and from her own family history. Seating is limited.

In the Wake of John Smith: Indigenous Cultural Landscapes of the Eastern Shore; Wilcomb Washburn Distinguished Lecture in American History
Guerrieri Center, Wicomico Room - Wednesday, April 13, 7 p.m.
In recognition of Native American History month, Virginia R. Busby, Ph.D., will present fascinating stories of native communities on the Shore and point to ways modern communities can appreciate and experience this history and benefit from the preservation of the sites associated with this history. This is a Cultural Laureate event.

Nabb Research Center Annual Fundraising Event
Victorian Springtime in Snow Hill at the Governor John Walter Smith House
Saturday, April 30, 4-7 p.m.
Join us in historic Snow Hill, MD, for an elegant evening of fabulous food, period music, potent potables (open bar and mint juleps) and silent auction at the Governor John Walter Smith House (circa 1889), an outstanding example of Victorian Queen Anne architecture.

Families of Old Somerset: The Bayside Settlement; Panel Discussion,
Nabb Research Center, East Campus - Saturday, May 14, 1 p.m.
Join us in the second of a series of roundtable discussions about the early families of Old Somerset County, MD. Focusing on the "Bayside" and including Manokin Hundred, this discussion will be led by local family historians who have valuable insights about the early families and their settlement patterns. Seating is limited.

Trans-Atlantic Networks: Scottish Immigrants in the Nineteenth Century; Lecture,
Nabb Center Gallery, East Campus - Thursday, June 9, 7 p.m.
James Jensen, a Ph.D. student at the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, will examine everyday networks as a major component of household strategies for survival amongst Scottish immigrants to North America. Discussions will touch upon the various waves of Scottish emigrants and how networks associated with place and religious communities helped them reach both short-term and long-term goals. Seating is limited.

Taylors Island: Unraveling the History of the Lane Church Cemetery; Lecture,
Nabb Center Gallery, East Campus - Wednesday, June 15, 7 p.m.
Local historian Linda Duyer will speak on efforts to learn more about an African-American cemetery on Taylors Island located adjacent to two historic churches, Lane Methodist Church and Bethlehem Methodist Episcopal Church. With gravesites dating to the early 1800s, burials include families prominent in the history of Dorchester County. Seating is limited.

Families of Old Somerset: Maryland's Lost Territory – Sussex County; Panel Discussion,
Nabb Research Center, East Campus - Saturday, July 16, 1 p.m.
Join us in the third of a series of roundtable discussions about the early families of Old Somerset County, Maryland. Focusing on the territory now part of Sussex County, DE, this discussion will be led by local family historians who have valuable insights about the early families. Seating is limited.

***http://nabbhistory.salisbury.edu/archives/exhibits/digitalexhibits.asp**